

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Kick off Summer in California State Parks

Summer is almost here and the best place to kick off the season is in a California State Park. Throughout the state, parks are gearing up for visitors from all over the world who will discover the natural and cultural beauty – and recreational opportunities – in California State Parks.

And visiting a California State Park is a bargain. A number of the parks charge no entrance fee.

Many Los Angeles Area State Parks are located near motels and shops, so visitors are advised to grab a picnic lunch at a local delicatessen, bring plenty of water, and enjoy a day - and perhaps a sunset - in some of the most stunning parks in Southern California.

Here are some ideas for summer fun:

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- **Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve** is just the place for an early summer treat. Visitors can see this 1,745-acre reserve transformed from a high-desert landscape into fields of golden poppies and other stunning wildflowers through mid-May. Throughout the summer, visitors can also walk the trails in the early morning. Located on Lancaster Road (Avenue I), 15 miles west of Highway 14 near Lancaster. The park phone number is (661) 724-1180.
- **Leo Carrillo State Park** is a great place to see the grunion during specific late night high tides. These small silver fish come dancing onto the beach for their annual egg laying

and fertilizing. On a good night, thousands of gleaming silver fish purposely ride up onto the sand between waves. Daytime offers visitors tidepooling, sunbathing, picnicking and fishing. Located on Pacific Coast Highway (Highway One) 25 miles west of Santa Monica. For more information on specific dates for when to see the grunion or other park information, call (805) 488-1827.

- **Malibu Creek State Park** offers excellent trails for hiking, horseback and mountain bike riding. These trails were once the pathways of early resident Chumash Indians as well as modern-day movie stars making films in the area. Located just four miles south of U.S. 101 on Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas. For park information, call (818) 880-0350.
- **Topanga State Park** offers easy walks to challenging hikes on 36 miles of trails throughout many different ecosystems. Visitors can enjoy oak trees, grasslands and fantastic views just miles from Los Angeles. The park's entrance is on Entrada Road, off of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, eight miles south of U.S. 101. For more information, the park phone number is (310) 455-2465.
- **Malibu Lagoon State Beach** and the **Adamson House** offer a great combination for visitors to enjoy California's natural and cultural heritage. Visitors are advised to call ahead to check the schedule of tours of the historic Adamson House, which features decorative ceramic tiles and custom-built features in a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century private Rancho Malibu estate. After the tour, visitors can have lunch on the estate's picnic tables or on the beach next door. To get there from Santa Monica, travel 12 miles west on Pacific Coast Highway (Highway one) to 232000 Pacific Coast Highway. For more information, call (818) 880-0350.
- **Will Rogers State Historic Park** was home to humorist and actor Will Rogers. Visitors have the opportunity to tour his ranch house and grounds, including polo fields, roping and riding rings, and stables. Weekend visitors may even see a polo match. Visitors

can also hike on the trails surrounding the house. The park is located off Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades, at 1501 Will Rogers State Park Road. It's always advised to call ahead for tour times and information at (310) 454-8212.

- **Point Dume State Beach and Natural Preserve** are hidden gems. The point juts out into the Pacific Ocean offering fantastic views of passing marine wildlife. The beach, accessed by a long staircase, offers tidepools, fishing and a quiet place for a picnic. Visitors can walk two miles of scenic trails on the top of the point to traverse grasslands, coastal bluff scrub, and sand dune communities. Located 20 miles west of Santa Monica, access to the bluff top is from the pay parking lot at Westward Beach just off of Pacific Coast Highway. A limited number of parking spots are located on the bluff top. For more information, call (805) 488-1827.

For more information about California State Parks, go on-line to: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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